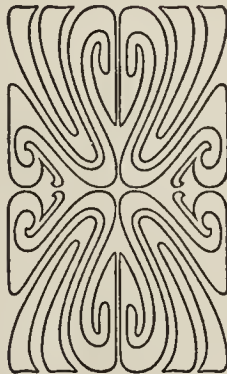


THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
LITTLEBOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORTS
of the MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH, & *the* HEALTH
VISITOR, *for the* YEAR 1918.



DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
DEPUTY M.O.H.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,

For the year ended December 31st, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your District during the year 1918.

Population.

The estimated civil population (as supplied by the County Council) of the District is 11,731. The population taken at the census (1911) was 11,697.

Area.

The District extends over an area of 7,856 acres, and is situated at the foot of the Pennine Range, 500 feet above sea level, on the borders of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The climate is somewhat damp but bracing.

The chief industries, the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, iron turning and founding.

Density per acre is 1.51.

Vital Statistics.

The number of deaths registered in the District in 1918 was 212, which is equivalent to a death rate of 20.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Population (supplied by the C.C.) for the calculation of death rate being 10,762.

The number of births was 150, which is equivalent to a birth rate of 12.7. Population (supplied by the C.C.) for the calculation of birth rate being 11,731.

For 1917 the death rate was 16.4 and the birth rate 10.9 and the averages for the past 10 years were: death rate 14.5, birth rate 17.3. From these figures it will be seen that the death rate is 5.7 above the average, and the birth rate 4.6 below the average.

During the year 150 births were notified. 149 visits were paid by the Health Visitor to houses where births had recently occurred; 1326 following-up visits; 46 pre-natal visits; and 17 visits in connection with Ophthalmia notifications.

Of those infants visited by the Health Visitor, 121 were breast fed, 6 bottle fed, and 22 were fed both on breast and bottle.

Infant Deaths.

There have been 13 deaths under 1 year, which is equivalent to a death rate of 93 per 1,000 net births, against 16 deaths and a rate of 122 in 1917.

In cases where deaths were investigated by the Health Visitor, the greater majority were amongst bottle fed babies.

The average of the past 10 years was 104. Valuable advice and supervision has been given by the Health Visitor under the Notification of Births Act, 1907. Premature birth &c. has been responsible for 5 deaths this year, as compared with 3 in 1917. Valuable assistance continues to be given by the District and C.A. nurses.

Zymotic, Respiratory, and Tuberculosis Death Rate.


			1917	1918
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	0.46	0.95
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	3.44	3.24
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1.39	0.66
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	0.09	0.57

Infectious Diseases.

503 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the past year, against 247 in 1917.

			1917	1918
Scarlet Fever	...	...	Nil	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Group	...	...	8	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	4	3
Erysipelas	...	...	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	2
Measles and German Measles	...	...	230	490
Puerperal Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis	...	...	Nil	3

Measles and German Measles occurred in epidemic form from March to June.



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Scarlet Fever.

Of the 2 cases of this disease, 1 occurred in September and the other in November.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

No cases.

Enteric Fever.

Of the 3 cases of this disease:

1	occurred in	July
1	„	„ August
1	„	„ October.

2 of the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

Erysipelas.

Of the 3 cases of this disease:

1	occurred in	February
1	„	„ April
1	„	„ August.

One case died.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

2 cases of this disease occurred: 1 in June, and the other in July.

Measles and German Measles.

Of the 490 cases:

2	occurred in	January
40	„	„ March
164	„	„ April
236	„	„ May
46	„	„ June
1	„	„ July
1	„	„ September.

This disease occurred in epidemic form from March to June.

Puerperal Fever.

No cases.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Of the 3 cases:

1 occurred in September and the other 2 in October.

Whooping Cough.

There was a fair number of cases in January and February, and a few in March and April.

Chicken Pox.

A few cases in December.

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases to the Returns of Sickness in Schools, supplied to me by the School Attendance Officers.

Influenza.

This disease occurred in severe epidemic form in July, October, and November. 46 fatal cases were registered.

Smallpox.

No cases.

Diarrhœa.

Only a few cases came under notice. The printed instructions which are issued at the commencement of the summer have been of great value.

Isolation Hospital.

The two large wards are reserved for Scarlet Fever, and the two small ones for Diphtheria and Enteric, but not both at the same time.

Arrangements have been made with the Rochdale Corporation to treat cases of Infectious Diseases (excepting Smallpox) at the Marland Fever Hospital, when the Isolation Hospital at Hollingworth is full, or the wards are not available for their treatment.

In case of an outbreak of smallpox in the district, arrangements have been made for the removal of all cases to the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board's Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

There were 13 deaths from Tuberculosis, 7 of which were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 to other Tuberculous Diseases, against 4 and 1 respectively in 1917. There were 39 notifications, 27 of which were new cases and 12 duplicate notifications, which were chiefly comprised of notifications of admission and discharge of patients in Sanatoria. Of the new cases (27) 22 were Pulmonary and 5 other Tuberculous Diseases.

By arrangement with the Registrar, deaths from Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are notified on registration so as to facilitate the disinfection of the houses where deaths have occurred.

In case of removals, the rooms &c. are thoroughly disinfected.

Of the cases suffering from Tuberculosis, where occupation was stated: 9 did not go out to work, 4 were cotton operatives, 4 labourers, 2 soldiers, 1 discharged soldier, 1 clerk, 1 navvy, 1 firebeater, 1 stonemason, and 1 currier. The sputum has been examined in 5 cases, all giving a positive result.

Housing Acts.

90 houses have been inspected in the area between Todmorden Road and the River up to Durn Lea, and the left hand side of Halifax Road to Schofield's Foundry.

Through houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
House not through, but with window opening at back							10
Back-to-back Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Rooms.

1 house	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 rooms
10 houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
8 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 "
63 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 "
5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
3 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 "

90 houses were occupied by 292 persons, an average of 3.24 per house. There was no overcrowding.

The drainage of the various properties is connected to the sewer

All the houses had a satisfactory water supply. 48 being supplied with Corporation water, and 42 by water from the Pikehouse supply.

List of defects noted:

Defective drain inlets	...	...	...	...	35
" rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater pipes connected direct	...	...	...	...	50
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	25
Damp floors	...	...	...	...	3
Windows to be made to open	...	...	...	...	13
Defective Windows	...	...	...	...	7
" light for rooms	...	...	...	...	3
" eaves-troughing	...	...	...	...	6
" roofs	...	...	...	...	18
" ashplaces	...	...	...	...	2
" closets...	...	...	...	...	4

Defective slopstone pipes	...	...	...	11
„ yards and passages...	...	...	...	4
„ flues	...	...	...	4
„ slopstone	...	...	...	1
„ floor	...	...	...	1
„ door	...	...	...	1
„ plastering	...	...	...	4
„ cellar	...	...	...	1

Only a few slight repairs have been done under the Housing Act during the year, owing to the difficulty of obtaining material and the cost of such material.

Defects remedied exclusive of Housing Act :

Main drains reconstructed	...	...	...	3
Branch drains reconstructed	...	...	...	9
New connections to sewer	...	...	...	2
Yard reflagged	...	...	...	1
Passage reflagged	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired	...	...	...	18
Drains opened and cleaned	...	...	...	20
Rainwater pipes repaired	...	...	...	14
Windows repaired	...	...	...	5
Eaves-troughs repaired...	...	...	...	22
Ashplaces repaired	...	...	...	23
Closets repaired	...	...	...	4
Water closets provided...	...	...	...	2
Privy midden converted to W. C.	...	...	...	1
Pail closet converted to W. C....	...	...	...	1
Downspouts disconnected	...	...	...	2
Ventilations to drains provided	...	...	...	4
Repairs to pointing	...	...	...	7
New slopstone pipe	...	...	...	1
Repairs to roofs	...	...	...	3
House cleansed	...	...	...	1
Scullery cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses limewashed after notice	...	...	...	1

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses in the district at the last census was 2,972, and there were 115 unoccupied. Since then 144 houses have been built. There have been 4 houses built during the past year.

All houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, and all houses in which Phthisis cases have died, or from which they have been removed, have been disinfected by spraying and fumigating with Formaldehyde. 11 houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease. Library books which are brought away from infected houses are destroyed.

489 notices have been sent to Schoolmasters and Sunday School Secretaries informing them of scholars suffering from Infectious Diseases, and prohibiting them and children from the same house attending School, and also to inform them when children could attend School after discharge from Hospital or Home Isolation.

4 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital: 2 of Scarlet and 2 of Enteric Fever.

Pamphlets were sent out in November stating the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of Influenza.

During the year many of the Schools have been closed on account of Influenza and Measles, and one School on account of Whooping Cough.

Date	School	Closed for	On account of
Jany. 31	Calderbrook School	3 weeks	Whooping Cough
May 8	Dearnley School	3 weeks	Measles
May 8	Central School	3 weeks	Measles
May 8	Parish Church School	3 weeks	Measles
May 8	Smithy Bridge Infants	3 weeks	Measles
June 4	Shore Infants	3 weeks	Measles
July 2	Central	7 days	Influenza
July 2	Parish Church	7 days	Influenza
July 2	Smithy Bridge	7 days	Influenza
July 5	St. Mary's	7 days	Influenza
July 8	ALL Schools	14 days	Influenza
Oct. 28	Summit School	14 days	Influenza
Nov. 22	Hollingworth School	14 days	Influenza
Nov. 22	Parish Church School	14 days	Influenza

Picture Theatres were closed to children of school age from November 25th to December 4th.

During the Whitsuntide Holidays the class rooms occupied by the younger children at all the schools were disinfected.

Water Supply.

The district generally is supplied with water by the Rochdale Corporation, and the supply has been satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. A number of houses in the district are supplied with water from private supplies.

Factories.

There are 74 factories on the register. No complaints have been received from the Factory Inspector.

Workshops.

There are 47 on the register (excluding retail bakehouses). These have been visited and found satisfactory.

Retail Bakehouses.

There are 20 on the register. A reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained without resort to the service of any notices. There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

Common Lodging-Houses.

There are two in the District which have been regularly inspected.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 registered Slaughter Houses on the register. All have been regularly inspected and all are in as satisfactory a condition as can be expected under the existing regulations. Notices have been sent to two slaughter house keepers to limewash, and also to remove materials which were being stored in the slaughter houses.

Butchers' Shops, &c.

The Butchers' Shops, &c., have been regularly inspected. During the year 59 lbs. of sausages and 14 sides (4704 lbs.) of beef have been condemned by me as unfit for human consumption. The sausages were destroyed locally and the beef sent to the Utilization Branch of the Products Company on the direction of the Area Meat Agent.

Maintenance of Live Stock Order, 1916.

This came into force in April 1916, and has for its object the increase in the live stock of the country.

Offensive Trades.

There are 7 in number: 3 fell-mongers, 2 tripe boilers, 1 gut scraper, and 1 glue maker. All have been inspected and found satisfactory. In one case notice has been given to limewash the building.

Cowsheds and Farm Buildings.

There are 91 in the district and 77 cowkeepers, 5 of the cowsheds being unoccupied at the present time. A large majority of them are in good repair. Notice has been given to the owner of one farm to undertake extensive repairs.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council in October, 1915, of permitting the slaughter of pigs on unlicensed premises, a number of persons have availed themselves of the privilege.

Samples of milk for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act are taken by the Police.

Milk Supply.

The supply of milk has not been sufficient for the population during the year. The compulsory ploughing which came into force in 1917 followed by the wet summer when it was impossible to harvest the crops, left the farmer very short of winter feeding. This, coupled with the particularly poor grazing summer of 1918 and the high price of cattle and feeding stuffs, has not encouraged the farmers to keep up the supply.

Milk (Mothers and Children's) Order, 1918.

Milk has been supplied under this order in several necessitous cases.

Canal Boats.

23 boats have been inspected, all of which were found to be in conformity with the regulations.

Scavenging.

Refuse is removed in covered carts and emptied on tips in the district. There is no destructor, the night-soil being disposed of to farmers in the district, where the land is suitable.

Closet and Ashplace Accommodation.

There are 1625 Pail Closets, 407 Water Closets, and 396 Waste-water Closets. There are 1782 ashtubs housed with doors and coverings, and 78 Ashbins.

During the year :

- 6 water closets have been erected.
- 1 pail closet has been converted to water closet.
- 1 privy midden has been abolished.

Sewage and Drainage.

The sewage is treated at the sewage works by precipitation and filtration. All the samples taken have been classed as satisfactory. Some repairs and reconstructions of drains to old property have been carried out.

Smoke.

10 observations, each of one hour's duration, have been made, none of which exceeded the time limit fixed by the Council (six minutes in the hour). One mill has installed economisers during the year.

Dwelling-house Chimneys.

This matter has been delegated to the Police.

Petroleum Licenses.

3 licences have been renewed during the year.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given me by Mr. Wild and Mr. George F. Wild.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

DEPUTY M.O.H.

October 25, 1919.

Vital Statistics for 1918.

Deaths						Males	Females
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	99	113
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Diphtheria and Croup			...	...	...	-	-
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	17	29
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Other Tuberculous Diseases			...	...	...	-	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease...			...	...	...	5	6
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	15	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Other Respiratory Diseases			...	...	...	-	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Nephritis and Bright's Disease			...	...	...	3	5
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Violence, apart from Suicide			...	...	...	5	1
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	28	32
Causes ill-defined or unknown			...	...	...	-	-
Deaths of infants under the age of one year						9	5
Total Births: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	63	75
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
Population for Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...		11,731
Population for Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...		10,762
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...		12.7
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...		20.2
Epidemic Death Rate			...	...	...		0.95
Phthisis Rate	...	...	...	...	...		0.66
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births				...	...		93

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LADY HEALTH VISITOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting my Fourth Annual Report upon the work done—the Notification of Births Act.

The rate of Infantile Mortality is 107·38 per 1,000 births.

During 1918 I have paid :

Visits to houses where births had recently occurred	149
“Following up” visits	1326
Visits in connection with Ophthalmia notifications	17
Pre-natal visits	46

Total Visits 1538

Of the infants visited there are :

Naturally fed babies	121
Artificially fed	6
Mixed feeding	22

The great majority of deaths of infants under one year are those of bottle fed babies.

Many of these deaths can undoubtedly be traced to insufficient food, neglect, and mismanagement. It is rarely that children are wilfully neglected, but they often are through inexperience, carelessness, and ignorance. The most frequent mistakes made in this district are those of irregular feeding, over feeding, and improper feeding—the giving of patent food and “pobs” before the age at which the digestive organs are capable of dealing with starch.

The old-fashioned tube feeding bottle is still in use, but is gradually being ousted by the more cleanly modern feeder. Practically all the babies have the so-called “comforters”, against the use of which there is much to be said.

In many cases, the babies are being provided with cosy wool vests in place of the cotton garments formerly worn.

The majority of the older children are well and comfortably clothed with flannel undergarments.

The work this year has been chiefly infant visiting. Any insanitary conditions brought to my notice are reported to and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Wild, Junr., for his kind courtesy with this last year’s work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JESSIE MACRITCHIE,
Qualified Nurse & Lond. Obstet. Soc., C.M.B.

April 22, 1919.

